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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4147
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 002587

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR: LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PASSES 505
AGREEMENT

¶1. (SBU) On October 26, the Legislative Assembly passed the 505 Agreement, with 44 in favor, none against, and the remainder abstaining. ARENA's 34-seat delegation was joined by 5 PCN deputies and 5 PDC votes in favor, while the FMLN abstained after criticizing U.S.-Salvadoran military cooperation. The 505 Agreement updates the original agreement from 1962 regarding the final disposition of military equipment sold under Foreign Military Financing (FMF) to El Salvador, and specifically enables the delivery of equipment and distribution of training funds provided by the Global Peace Keeping Initiative (GPOI).

¶2. (SBU) Comment: The 505 Agreement was held up for months by lawyers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense. After numerous lobbying efforts by Embassy staff, the Agreement finally moved to the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission several weeks ago, and needed further Embassy lobbying to finally reach passage. The delays were not caused by resistance from the GOES or the political parties, but rather from bureaucratic and minor legalistic delays at the two ministries. It was notable that the FMLN, who generally vote against anything that denotes Salvadoran-U.S. cooperation, abstained in this one instance.
Barclay